

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 214393

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. EGYPT AND LIBYA ON THE BRINK

LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS CONTINUE TO DETERIORATE. EMBASSY
TRIPOLI REPORTS THAT IN RECENT DAYS:

--THE TWO GOVERNMENTS SEVERED TELECOMMUNICATIONS LINKS
BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE RELATIONS OFFICES AND FOREIGN
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MINISTRIES.

--LIBYA ARRESTED SEVERAL EGYPTIANS ON ESPIONAGE

CHARGES.

--THE LIBYAN MEDIA HAVE CONDUCTED A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN TO PREPARE THE PEOPLE FOR EGYPT'S ALLEGEDLY IMMINENT ATTACK.

EMBASSY COMMENT: LIBYA ANTICIPATES AN EGYPTIAN ATTACK AND HOPES TO EXPLOIT IT TO CAUSE SADAT'S OVERTHROW. BRINKMANSHIP MAY ESCALATE THE CRISIS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF EITHER COUNTRY. (CONFIDENTIAL) TRIPOLI 1144, 8/27.)

2. NIGERIA-ISRAEL: CHANCES FOR RENEWED RELATIONS FADE

NIGERIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMISSIONER GARBA TOLD THE PRESS AUGUST 25 THAT GROWING ISRAELI COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA MADE PROSPECTS FOR A RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH TEL AVIV BLEAK. GARBA ADDED:

--UNTIL TWO MONTHS AGO, NIGERIA'S ATTITUDE WAS SHAPED SOLELY BY THE STATE OF ISRAEL'S RELATIONS WITH THE ARABS.

--NOW ISRAEL IS HELPING SOUTH AFRICA BY SUPPLYING MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND "POLICING" THE DESERT BETWEEN ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA.

EMBASSY COMMENT: CONTINUED COOPERATION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA WILL DRIVE NIGERIA TO TAKE STRONGER STANDS AGAINST ISRAEL AND MAY EVEN ERODE NIGERIA'S WILLINGNESS TO MAINTAIN ITS OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI EXPULSION OR SUSPENSION FROM THE UN. (CONFIDENTIAL) LAGOS 9871, 8/27.)

3. GUYANA: COMPLIMENTS FOR US PERFORMANCE AT THE NAC

FOREIGN MINISTER WILLS TOLD CHARGE BLACKEN AUGUST 25 THAT THE US'S INCREASING INTEREST IN AND SENSITIVITY TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD HAD WORKED TO OUR ADVANTAGE AT COLOMBO. THE MORE POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE RESULTED
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FROM:

--THE IMPRESSIVE EFFORT TO ACQUAINT THE DELEGATIONS WITH US POSITIONS;

--THE SECRETARY'S SPEECHES ON THE DEVELOPING WORLD, WHICH COLLECTIVELY SIGNAL A "REVOLUTION" IN US POLICY; AND

--RECENT US INITIATIVES ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, ESPECIALLY

NAMIBIA.

CHARGE'S COMMENT: FOR WILLS AND BURNHAM, AFRICA IS THE TOUCHSTONE IN JUDGING US POLICY. (CONFIDENTIAL) GEORGETOWN 1709, 8/27.)

4. SPAIN: DEBATE ON ELECTORAL LAW CONTINUES

EMBASSY MADRID REPORTS THAT VETERAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER GIL ROBLES HAS PUT THE GOVERNMENT ON NOTICE THAT ANY ELECTORAL LAW SHOULD BE THE PRODUCT OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH

THE OPPOSITION. IN AN EDITORIAL IN YA, GIL ATTACKED THE SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICT, WINNER-TAKE-ALL SYSTEM THE GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY FAVORS AND REITERATED THE OPPOSITION'S ADVOCACY OF SOME FORM OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE DEBATE OVER THE ELECTORAL LAW MAY BE FAR FROM OVER WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT ITSELF. THE GOVERNMENT'S OBVIOUS OBJECTIVE IS TO WRITE A LAW UNDER WHICH THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION WILL AGREE TO PARTICIPATE. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MADRID 6551, 8/27.)

5. FRANCE: CHIRAC OUT BUT NOT DOWN

MARIE-FRANCE GARAUD, POLITICAL ADVISOR TO FORMER PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC, TOLD CHARGE GAMMON AUGUST 27 THAT CHIRAC WILL RUN FOR PARLIAMENT THIS FALL. SHE ADDED:

--CHIRAC WILL FIGHT NEITHER GISCARD NOR GOF POLICY, ON WHICH THE TWO MEN AGREE.
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--THE BONE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN CHIRAC AND GISCARD WAS ELECTORAL POLICY, WITH CHIRAC ADVOCATING EARLY ELECTIONS TO HEAD OFF A POSSIBLE LEFTIST VICTORY.

CHARGE'S COMMENT: CHIRAC'S DECISION TO RUN IN A HEAVILY LEFTIST DISTRICT IS COURAGEOUS. WHETHER OR NOT HE IS ELECTED, HE WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A VERY ACTIVE ROLE IN PARTY AFFAIRS. (CONFIDENTIAL) PARIS 25030, 8/27.) KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, ELECTION LAW, MORNING SUMMARY, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE214393
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: GAMBER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760328-1095
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976089/aaaaahlg.tel
Line Count: 161
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LY, EG, NI, IS, GY, US, SP, FR, (CHIRAC, JACQUE)
To: NSA DOD TRSY MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006